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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4009

INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE 1294

RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE 0276

RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 0594

RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0301

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 000004

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

STATE FOR PRM/ANE (MRAMGOOLIE) AND NEA/IPA (SHANKINS)

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: <u>EAID PGOV PREL PHUM SW</u>
SUBJECT: SWEDES TO PROVIDE \$10 MILLION TO UNRWA'S GAZA

FLASH APPEAL AND UN CONSOLIDATED APPEAL

REF: STATE 135559

11. (SBU) On January 7, Poloff and Econoff shared reftel points with Fredrik Floren, Deputy Director for Levant Affairs & North Africa, Middle East and North Africa Department, at the Swedish MFA. Floren confirmed that Sweden will donate \$10 million in humanitarian and development assistance. He also stated that Sweden provided some \$90-107 million in combined humanitarian and development aid in 2008 and expects the total amount of assistance in 2009 to exceed this amount. Sweden has consistently been among the top EU donors to the Palestinian territories for the past five to six years. Floren added that the Hamas takeover of the Gaza strip has made Swedish efforts to provide development assistance to the area very difficult, as has the Israeli blockade. SILVERMAN